

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, and 13 under 35 USC 102 (b), as being anticipated by Sombroek et al.

Features of the control apparatus according to the present invention are first and second control means to increase or decrease at a predetermined speed respective first and second parameters (channel up/down and volume up/down, for example). In response to a means for judging similarity of alternate actions made by the first and second command means, the speed of increase or decrease of the parameter is changed so that when a similarity is found (e.g. alternating between channel up to channel down) an accelerated speed of change is maintained and when a similarity is not found (e.g. alternating between channel up and volume up) the speed of change is returned to normal. This results in improved userfriendliness of operation.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to emphasize these features of the present invention.

Looking at Sombroek et al. we see that there is a means for accelerating the speed of change but there is no means for

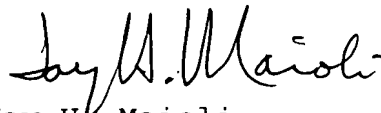
judging similarity of alternate actions. In Sombroek et al. without regard of which parameter is activated, +x, -x, +y, or -y, the acceleration is maintained. In other words, in Sombroek et al., when channel up (first parameter) is switched with volume up (second parameter), the accelerated speed of change is maintained because of the lack of means for judging similarity of alternate actions.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by Sombroek et al.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because all of the features of this invention have clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 9 to read as follows and cancel claims 2, 5, 10 and 13, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Thrice Amended) A control apparatus having [at least] a first command means to increase or decrease at a predetermined speed a first [amount of adjustment] parameter and a second command means to increase or decrease at said predetermined speed a second [amount of adjustment] parameter when activated and responsive to the alternate activation of said first and second command means, said control apparatus comprising:

means for [shifting] accelerating said predetermined speed of increase or decrease of one of said first and second [amounts of adjustment] parameters when one of said first command means and said second command means is activated continuously;

means for judging similarity of [each action] alternate actions made by said first and second command means; and

means for maintaining said [shifting] accelerated speed of increase or decrease of said second [amount] parameter equal to said first [amount] parameter when said first and second command means are alternately activated and said similarity is found by said means for judging similarity and for returning to

said predetermined speed of increase or decrease when said similarity is not found.

--9. (Thrice Amended) A control method using [at least] a first command means to increase or decrease at a predetermined speed a first [amount of adjustment] parameter and a second command means to increase or decrease at said predetermined speed a second [amount of adjustment] parameter when activated and responsive to the alternate activation of said first and second command means, said control method comprising the steps of:

[shifting] accelerating said predetermined speed of increase or decrease of one of said first and second [amounts of adjustment] parameters when one of said first and second command means is activated continuously

judging similarity of [each action] alternate actions made by said first and second command means; and

maintaining said [shifting] accelerated speed of increase or decrease of said second [amount] parameter equal to said first [amount] parameter when said first and second command means are alternately activated and said similarity is found by said step of judging similarity and for returning to said predetermined speed of increase or decrease when said similarity is not found.--